



THE MUSTARD SEED



The Resurrected Life....

Does the fact and reality of the resurrection affect our everyday lives?

Often we treat Jesus' resurrection as intellectual and theological exercise. The resurrection of Jesus is a commonly doctrine across the theological spectrum. Christians no matter where they fall on the theological spectrum, no matter what else they believe or not, Calvinist or Lutheran, UCC or Mennonite, affirm a belief in the resurrection. It is one of few

beliefs that unite us together as the universal Church.

While we may have an idea what it means to our theology, what don't often think about the ways it affects our everyday lives. At the most basic level, resurrection and Sabbath go together. The reason our holy day of rest is Sunday rather than Saturday (like in the Jewish faith) is because Jesus rose on the 1st day of the week, aka Sunday. Resurrection calls us to live a new and different life, and it calls us to rest when others may be mowing their lawns. Yet resurrection is not just about resting and relaxing, but also a call to gather as the community of faith for fellowship and worship. Resurrection is what serves as the foundation of our relationships inside and outside the church walls.

The power of resurrection does not stop there. Each one of the Gospels in its own way describes the power the resurrection has for our lives; all but Mark feature post resurrection appearances by Jesus. One of my favorites is the Emmaus Road Story of Luke 24. One lesson I take from that is the power of resurrection to transform everyday meals. We frequently affirm the power of Communion where common bread and juice are transformed into something special and unique by the power of God in the resurrected Jesus. What if we saw all our meals as holding the potential of a holy encounter? What if we invited Jesus into our meals at home and at McDonald's? The resurrection power of the Holy Spirit makes Jesus available to us everywhere at any time. Jesus blesses us within and outside the church walls.

Resurrection was the power of a changed life for the disciples. They never were the same after experience. How about us are we the same after worshipping on Easter Sunday? Might we be underestimating that power and impact of resurrection? What if this Eastertide and beyond we endeavored to live according to the power of the resurrection and allow ourselves to be transformed; what might look and be different?

May God bless us as we strive to fully live into the resurrected life.

Peace,
Pastor Matt



EASTER CELEBRATION for KIDS & YOUTH! On Easter Sunday **at 9:30 am**, the children and youth are invited to make "empty tomb" treats and have our annual egg hunt downstairs! They will be hosting Sip & Chat that day as well with some fun Easter treats you won't want to miss!



GOOD NEWS! We are NOW officially a **CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH!** Look for a celebration on **April 19th** after church in the basement. Wear **GREEN** for a photo with our new banner. Thanks to everyone at Salem for supporting this effort.



The Book Club will meet **on March 30 at April 27 7 p.m. to discuss**

“The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn for March, date TBD, as she is coming to the Hershey Library on April 11. Public tickets go on sale March 2. Any questions, please contact Carin Kaag.

Her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com.



**WANTED:
YOUR SMILE**

Church Directory Pictures

Updated pictures for the on-line church directory are encouraged to assist with getting to know each other within our church community. Updated directory pictures will also be very helpful to a new pastor! There are two ways to update or add a picture to the directory:

1. Send your preferred picture via email to Pat in the church office.
2. Plan to have your picture taken on April 19th following the church service or during the luncheon planned for that day.

The on-line directory app is free and easy to download; search for Instant Church Directory.

C.A.R.E. Corner



CREATION C.A.R.E. CORNER (*Community Acting to Rescue Earth*)

Why are the plants in Salem’s pollinator garden **NATIVE PLANTS**? Native plants are ones that grow naturally in an area. Wildlife depends on them to survive (and so do we!). Here’s an example. A native oak tree supports over 500 species of caterpillars whereas the ginkgo (from Asia), hosts only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a huge difference. (Audubon.org) Look for native plants to help support our ecosystem and **C.A.R.E. Today.** ❤️ ❤️



*The Creation Care Team is teaming up with Campbelltown Community Alliance to host a **SPRINGTIME AT THE PARK** on **Saturday, May 9th from 10am-noon** (Rain date, Sunday, May 10th 2-4pm).

*CCT is also planning a **PLANT SHARE TAILGATE EVENT** on **Saturday, May 16th from 10am-noon** in the church parking lot.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. - We worship together as disciples and friends. We will gather in the church basement for a simple meal of soup and bread. We sing, pray and celebrate Communion and center ourselves on Jesus' commandment to "love one another".

Good Friday, April 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - During this quiet and meditative service in our Sanctuary, we journey with Jesus towards the cross. This service will end in silence and darkness as we dwell on the shadows of our faith.

Easter Sunday, April 5th, 10:30 a.m. - Proclaim the Good News the Christ is Risen!! Join us Easter Morning surrounded by flowers and signs

of new life to celebrate the Resurrection with worship, song and prayer. We will also break bread together during Holy Communion.



The United Church of Christ Homes would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$350, which was placed into their Benevolent Fund. Your contribution plays a vital role in helping to provide compassionate care and essential services to those who need them most.

The Caring Cupboard thanks you for your gift of \$929 which helps ensure that individuals and Families in our local neighborhoods have reliable access to ample, nutritious food—because no one should every go hungry.



The Heritage Choral of Lancaster Spring Concert "Deep Peace" will be held **on Sunday, April 26 at 4 pm.** at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road, Lancaster, PA; **Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m.** at Grandview Church, 888 Pleasure Road, Lancaster, PA and **Sunday, May 17 at 4 p.m.** at Holy

A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message



C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue." Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.

Salem UCC Council Meeting Agenda
2/10/26

Present: Faith Bicksler, Matt Kaag, Jared Cooper, Michelle Alger, Missy Weidler, Gretchen Monahan, Megan Wheelden, Barb Kauffman, Bill McNamara, Sarah McNamara, Pastor Matt Hoover, Tom Peiffer, Cindy Umberger, Jim Flanagan

Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Opening Devotions (Faith)

Approval of Agenda by unanimous consent

Secretary's report (Bill) – Approval of January 2026 meeting minutes by unanimous consent

Treasurer's Report (Tom)

January 2026

Actual Receipts: \$10,628 -down 16% from 2025 (only 2 Sundays of worship this year due to weather)

Expenditures: \$16,306

Deficit of \$5,700 for January

General Fund Income statement – No electric expense because we paid ahead two months in December

Funds report – Overall increase of \$893, due to good fund dividends

Treasurer's report approved by unanimous vote

Pastor's Report (Pastor Matt)

Lent – Joint Ash Wednesday service 2/18

March 8th Becky will preach at Salem. After discussion, decided to make this a Women's Sunday with other female members assisting in worship.

March 15th Kevin Maclemore – will be here to meet with search committee and preach as well

Old Business:

Hiring of new custodian (Tom)

Melissa Withers and JaTanna from Vista present via Zoom

Vista has new candidate: Daniel Gerberich, 21 years old and in the State Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Vocational Resources (OVR) program.

Tom P and Pastor Matt met with him and took him around the church

He can start on 2/18 - Wed and Thursday Mornings, up to 3 hours each time

He'll use Shared Ride system provided by Lebanon Transit for transportation

9:30 to 9:45 he will arrive and work until 12:30; last ½ hour will be independently

Job Coaching: A job coach from Vista will be assigned to help Daniel during the initial 90 days of employment to ensure success. Intensive support during the first 40 hours of employment (on-site, direct intervention). After 90 days, Daniel will be able to work independently, but additional coaching is available if needed (service extensions).

He has janitorial experience from another job

Motion by Tom to hire Daniel on a probationary basis (90 days).

Motion passed unanimously

Motion by Tom to hire him at \$14.85, Barb Kaufman second

Motion passed unanimously

Related note – we need a new vacuum; Tom will purchase for approximately \$200

Jim second

Motion passed unanimously

Thanks to Tara J for cleaning this week

Update on Horseshoe pike parking lot (Jared)

Jared received a response from the Township: Based on details we provided, the Township agrees that we would remain compliant with the ordinance parking requirements *without* the lot across 322.

Council discussion on benefits of potential sale of the lot. One of the leading reasons to consider selling the lot is the safety concerns in using the lot and walking across 322 to the church.

Jared will further research the sale of the lot with a real estate agent.

By-laws update (Pastor Matt)

Council provided input on bylaws questionnaire from Barb

Draft Bylaws have been modified significantly since council last saw them. More to come.

New Business:

Impact of member giving, present state and future concerns (Pastor Matt)

We have very generous giving within our church

In 2025, due to changing situations, we lost about \$20,000 of regular giving; impact lessened because many members increased giving

This is presented as an FYI, but we need to keep this in mind.

Discussion on package for new pastor (Matt K)

Search committee has requested that council creates a hiring offer package

Committee Reports :

Building, Grounds, Cemetery (Jared) – Heat issue recently and Delta responded (\$250 repair bill). Building and Grounds members did snow blowing over 2 days during the January storm

Christian Education (Jim) – Feb 17th is next meeting

Fellowship (Michelle) – nothing to report

Finance Stewardship (Tom) – nothing to report

Membership (Bill) – nothing to report

Missions (Matt) – nothing to report

Creation Care (Cindy) - April 12, next meeting at Campbelltown park to discuss spring events

PACC (Tom) – Seltzer retreat - good discussion and scheduled another meeting for early March

Women’s Fellowship (Faith) – Met and discussed 4 upcoming activities

Pastoral Relations (Missy) – no meeting

Music and Worship (Faith) – Meeting Jan 19, Pastor Matt presented plan for worship; figuring out stripping of alter during Palm Sunday.

Youth Fellowship (Sarah) – Youth Updates:

Mission moment for the Souper Bowl of Caring and helped collect donations – 126 lbs donated

Soup and bake sale with \$559 donated to Caring Cupboard

Open Comment period (off the record)

Meeting adjournment by unanimous consent

Ended 8:46 PM

Closing: Mitzpah Benediction

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th, 2026



Wednesday	April 1	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m.. by Karen Umberger
Thursday	April 2	Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 in Fellowship Hall with meal of Of Soup & Bread with Communion
Friday	April 3	Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	April 5	Easter Celebration for Kids & Youth 9:30 a.m. Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. With Communion
Tuesday	April 7	511 R.E.S.T. Group 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday	April 8	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	April 9	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger
Sunday	April 12	Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday
Monday	April 13	Council 7 p.m. Hybrid
Wednesday	April 15	Sanctury being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger
Thursday	April 16	Finance Committee 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger
Sunday	April 19	Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Creation Care Sunday Luncheon after Worship
Tuesday	April 21	511 R.E.S.T. Group 4-6 p.m.
Wednesday	April 22	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	April 23	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger
Sunday	April 26	Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	April 29	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger
Thursday	April 30	Sanctuary being used 3:30-6:30 p.m. by Karen Umberger

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube



SCRIPTURE READINGS

April 5, 2026

Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:31-13
Matthew 28:16-20



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3 Deedee Peiffer
6 Cindy Umberger
7 Rachel Flanagan
8 Haley Albright
9 Claudia Boyer
9 John Risser
10 Ron Cline
11 Ella Longenecker
13 Robin Ream
21 Blair Thomas
23 Patricia Brandt
26 Kaylie Brown
27 Meah Gravely
28 Cole Miller
29 Michael Aungst
29 Barry Hite
30 Kylie Rose Uhler
30 Ron Koehler

2 Jennifer Grab
2 Janelle Waller
5 Barb Gainer
6 Sheena Kindt
8 Mary Daub
9 Amber Jefferson
12 Dean Alger
13 Joan Campbell
13 Brianna Cooper
16 Emily Uhler
17 Pam McNamara
17 Norah Monahan
20 Trenton Grab
23 Sally Cline
23 Grayson Meadath
24 Clara Kindt
24 Amelia Kindt
26 Rebecca Risser
29 Cody Broaddus
31 Shirley Beck

Following Christ's Example of Humble Service



On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples' feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an Goodwill (mark the bag Recycling) otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

Writing Tool Recycling You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube on the windowsill in the west narthex. Thank you!

Battery Recycling Salem now has a battery recycling collection bin in the West narthex (shaped like a battery!). Place used rechargeable or single-use batteries there and they will be taken to Staples for proper disposal.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these

Yes, I can!



brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying.

These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, NIV).